

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02069 291758Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05
/068 W

-----024985 300622Z /10

R 291551Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6309
INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 2069

DEPTFOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR RJAQ AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS PANAMA O 291542Z MAR 78 SENT ACTION USINFO
WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AND AMCONGEN RIO DE JANEIRO REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE UNCLAS

USIAC

BRASIL POSTS PASS PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

MEDIA REACTION

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1-PANAMA CITY.--PRESIDENT'S TRIP: PRESIDENT'S TRIP FRONT-PAGED
MARCH 29 IN FOUR OF FIVE DAILIES. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT.
PRO-GOP MATUTINO BANNERS HEAD OVER UPI CARACAS STORY, "C.A.
PEREZ: IT WORRIES AMERICA THAT SPIRIT OF TREATIES MAY BE
DISTORTED." ALSO
FRONT PAGE MATUTINO IS CARACAS EFE STORY,
"IN CARACAS CARTER PROMISES RETURN OF PANAMA CANAL." SEMI-

INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA LEADS FRONT PAGE WITH AP AND DPA ITEMS UNDER SAME HEAD, "CARTER IN CENEZUELA: 'EVERY WORD ABOUT RATIFICATION IS A WORD THAT RESOUNDS DEEPLY IN ALL THE NATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA.'"

2-SEMI-INDEIENDENT ENGLISH STAR AND HERALD CARRIES AP CARACAS STORY, HEADED, PEREZ TELLS CARTER LATIN AMERICANS EYE SENATE

ON PC TREATY DEBATES'." AFTERNOONER PRO-GOP LA REPUBLICA MARCH 28 BANNERS UPI CARACAS STORY, "TREATY IS MAJOR PART OF CARTER/PEREZ AGENDA; THEY NEED TODAY IN CARACAS." PRO-GOP TABLOID CRITICA CARRIES UPI CARACAS ITEM PAGE TWO, "CARTER AFFIRMS IN CARACAS: ALL THOSE WHO FIRHT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY WILL TRIUMPH."

3-PRESIDENT'S MARCH JWO KADDRESS TO VENEZUELAN CONGRESS CARRIED LIVE IN ENGLISH ON AFRTS RADIO IN CANAL ZONE, AND IN VOA SPANISH ON MAJOR PANAMANIAN NATIONWIDE RADIO NETWORK OF 17 STATIONS.

4-CANAL TREATY: EDITS AND COUNNS IN MARCH 29 MATUTINO AND CRITICA AND MARCH 28 LA REPUBLICA LAUD FOREIGN MINISTRY DECISION TO RELEASE TEXT OF TREATY AMENDMENTS AND RESERVATIONS BEFORE OFFICIAL TEXT RECEIVED. COMMENTARIES URGE CAREFUL STUDY OF

TEXTS. IN MATUTINO'S WORDS, WE MUST "EVALUATE THESE AMENDMENTS UNCLASSIFIED

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AS A WHOLE, FORM A CLEAR CONCEPT OF THEM...AND BE SURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAKES ITS DECISION IN THE NAME OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE." IF TREATIES COME OUT OF SENATE GREATLY CHANGED, SAYS MATUTINO, "WE WILL FIND OURSELVES WITH TWO TREATIES: THAT OF

1903 AND THAT OF 1978...NEITHER OF WHICH WILL HAVE THE

SIGNATURE OF A SINGLE PANAMANIAN."

5-CRITICA COLUMNIST CAMILO PEREZ QUOTES EDWARD CORBIN AS CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOLAR WHO SAYS SENATE HAS NO RIGHT TO NODIFY TREATY WITHOUT NEGOTIATION OF POINTS BY BOTH SIDES. "IN PANAMA IT SEEMS A NEW RIGHT IS BEING FORMULATED," SAYS PEREZ. "EVERYTHING WHICH HAPPENS DAY TO DAY CONCERNING THE TREATIES, IS CREATING MORE INTELLIGENCE FOR THE ANSWERS. WE ARE GOING TO BE VERY CAREFUL IN THESE ANSWERS. BECAUSE THE RRINGOS, TOO, SHOULD BE WORRIED."

6-MATUTINO COLUMNIST LUIS RESTREPO ALSO CALLS FOR CAREFUL STUDIES OF MODIFICATIONS TO TREATY, BUT SAYS HE ALREADY BELIEVES

PANAMANIAN CANNOT ACCEPT MANY OF THEM: "SOME OF THEM ARE TRULY
HARMFUL TO
PANAMANIAN DIGNITY AND THEREFORE WILL SURELY BE
UNACCEPTABLE TO OUR COUNTRY." RESTREPO BELIEVES IT IS EVIDENT
TO ALL PANAMANIAN WHAT HAPPENED IN TREATY DEBATES: "THE COLD
STORY RELATED BY TIME MAGAZINE
LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT IN NEITHER
THE WHITE HOUSE NOR IN THE SENATE ARE PANAMANIAN INTERESTS MUCH
IN CONSIDERATION."

7-RESTREIA
SINGLES OUT DECONCINI RESERVATION FOR SPECIAL

CRITICISM: "IT ASSURE HAT NATION THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE TO
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INTERVENE MILITARILY IN PANAMA AFTER THE YEAR 2000. CERTAINLY
THIS RESERVATION OR AMENDMENT OR WHATEVER THEY WANT TO CALL IT
WILL
BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PANAMANIA PEOPLE
AND A SUBJECT OF
FUTURE CONFLICTS. THAT DAY (OF THE TREAY VOTE) THE U.S. SENATE
SHOWED THE WORLD ITS TRUE FACE, ITS RUE INTNTIONS. ALL
DONE WIH AMAZING COLDNESS, AN INDICATION HA THE PROBLEMS
BETWEEN PANAMA AND WASHINGTON WILL CONTINUE." ITEM UNQUOTE
JORDEN

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NNN

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